

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 3-13 are pending in the application, with claims 3 and 6 being the independent claims. Claims 3 and 6 have been amended herein, and claims 8-13 are newly presented. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0212183 (Struck et al.). Claims 3-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,465,078 (Kawai et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,712,027 (Ali et al.) These rejections are traversed.

Features of the independent claims

Independent claim 3 of the present invention recites a recording sheet having fibrous pulps, fillers, and a sizing agent. The sizing agent includes a vinyl copolymer, wherein in the vinyl copolymer, the only kinds of repeating units are selected from a repeating unit (i) represented by general formula (1) and a repeating unit (ii) represented by general formula (2). The sizing agent is applied to a base paper formed using the fibrous pulps and the fillers.

Independent claim 6 of the present invention recites a process for producing a recording sheet including fibrous pulps, fillers, and a sizing agent. The process includes a step of applying the sizing agent to a base paper. The sizing agent includes a vinyl copolymer, wherein in the vinyl copolymer, the only kinds of repeating units are selected

from a repeating unit (i) represented by general formula (1) and a repeating unit (ii) represented by general formula (2).

Rejection over Struck et al.

Struck et al. relates to a process for preparing a polymer dispersion. Applicant submits that the Struck et al. publication fails to teach or suggest a recording sheet in which a sizing agent includes a vinyl copolymer, wherein in the vinyl copolymer, the only kinds of repeating units are selected from a repeating unit (i) represented by general formula (1) and a repeating unit (ii) represented by general formula (2), as recited in claim 3 of the subject application. Struck et al. also fails to teach or suggest that such a sizing agent is applied to a base paper formed using fibrous pulps and fillers. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 3 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the Struck et al. publication.

Rejection over Kawai et al. in view of Ali et al.

Kawai et al., which is directed to a recording sheet with an ink absorbing layer, teaches the necessity of including crosslinking monomers in the ink absorbing layer. Applicant submits that Kawai et al. fails to teach or suggest that a sizing agent includes a vinyl copolymer, wherein in the vinyl copolymer, the only kinds of repeating units are selected from a repeating unit (i) represented by general formula (1) and a repeating unit (ii) represented by general formula (2), as recited in independent claims 3 and 6 of the subject application. Applicant does not understand any of the crosslinking monomers disclosed in Kawai et al. to correspond to the kinds of repeating units recited in claims 3 and 6. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably distinguish the present invention over the Kawai et al. patent.

In the Office Action, it is stated that the Ali et al. patent is only used to teach that it is known in the art that hydroxy alkyl(meth)acrylates and alkoxy alkyl(meth)acrylates are hydrophilic monomers used in copolymers used in ink receptive coatings for recording sheets. Applicant submits that Ali et al. fails to teach or suggest that a sizing agent includes a vinyl copolymer, wherein in the vinyl copolymer, the only kinds of repeating units are selected from a repeating unit (i) represented by general formula (1) and a repeating unit (ii) represented by general formula (2), as recited in independent claims 3 and 6 of the subject application. Thus, the proposed combination of the Kawai et al. patent and the Ali et al. patent, even if proper, fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably distinguish the present invention over all of the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are therefore requested.

The dependent claims are submitted to be allowable in their own right for defining further features of the invention in addition to those recited in the independent base claims. Individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is requested.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections and an early notification of allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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